花とゆめCOMICS

夏目友人帳

緑川ゆき 13

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夏目友人帳〔13〕

緑川ゆき

白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

ある日、祓い屋一門の頭首・的場からの手紙を受け取った夏目。ところが、読む前にそれを無くしてしまう。内容がわからず不安を覚える中、的場本人が現れ！ 彼の目的とは――!? 夏目と友人・西村＆北本の出会いや交流を描いた特別編2話も収録。あやかし契約奇談第13巻!!

■LaLa掲載■

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作品かいせつ

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●緑川ゆきの本

―花とゆめコミックス―
アヤイヒビノ 蛍火の杜へ
緋色の椅子 全3巻
夏目友人帳 ①～⑬

―花とゆめコミックス スペシャル―
夏目友人帳 公式ファンブック ―夏目と友人たち―
ニャンコ先生友人帳 夏目友人帳 公式ニャンブック
愛蔵版 蛍火の杜へ

―白泉社文庫―
あかく咲く声 全2巻

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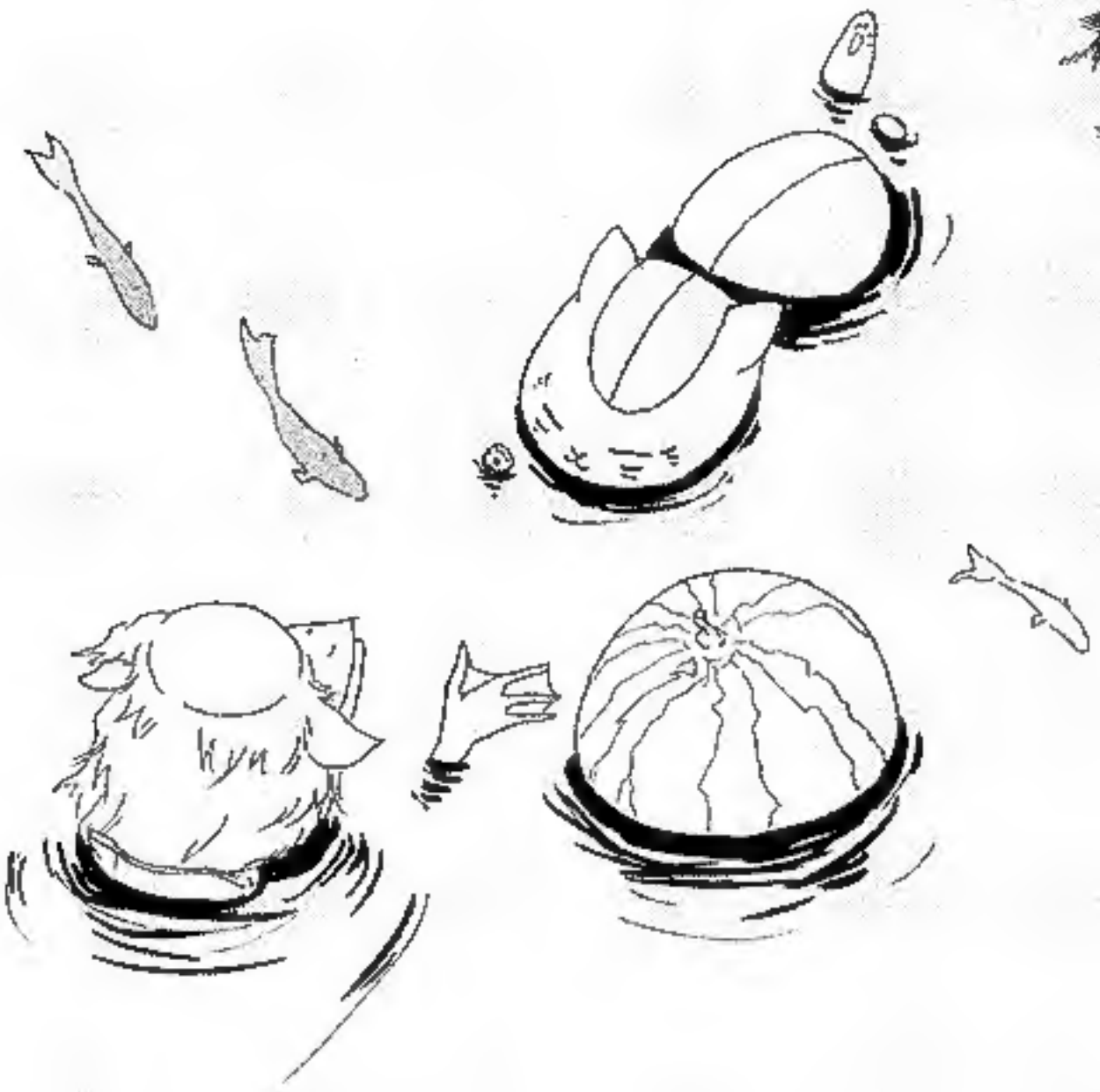
夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう



第五十二話

だいごじゅうにわ

AS OTHERS CANNOT SEE THEM, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL YOUKAI

EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL, I HAVE SOMETIMES SEEN STRANGE THINGS

IT'S SO HOT ...

ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME, NATSUME?

OI NYANKO-SENSEI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

AH

OI, NATSUME?

!!

WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BE TALKING ABOUT THE NEW MIZUAME AT NANATSUJIYA NOW WOULD YOU...

KIDS SHOULD JUST STAY PUT AT HOME

OI, SENSEI...

NOWHERE SPECIAL, I'M JUST GOING TO CHECK OUT SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS ME A LITTLE

EH?

WAH!

NI... NISHIMURA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

HM? I HAD CRAM SCHOOL! IT'S SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS...

WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO? I THOUGHT I HEARD AN OLD MAN'S VOICE

HUH?

NO... I WAS JUST TALKING TO MYSELF...

ピンポーン

I'M HOME

WELCOME BACK TAKASHI-KUN, COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOUR AND CHECK THE MAILBOX?

THE FACT I CAN SEE AYAKASHI IS A SECRET

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THESE PEACEFUL DAYS

...HUH? BUT THERE'S NO ADDRESS OR STAMP...

...SOMETHING ADDRESSED TO ME?

PHEW, IT'S BOILING OUT HERE...

...AH

TAKASHI-KUN? ...WHAT'S WRONG?

ドクン

ドクン

...I'M JUST GOING... TO GO LOOK FOR NYANKO-SENSEI..

...IT'S NOTHING, UM..

...ふぇ?

ドクン

Gyah

Exactly what...

ドクン

...EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF LETTER IS THIS...?

ドクン

ドクン

ドクン

!?

...IT MUST BE MATOBA FROM THE EXORCIST FAMILY RIGHT...?

ガサ

ガサ

ガサ

!?

しゅう…

AHAHA, THE SEAL WORKED WELL.

THIS IS SIMPLER THAN I THOUGHT

!
Was it blown away!?

DID IT LAND AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE?

CRAP!

THE LETTER

!!
He's an exorcist?

EXORCISING AYAKASHI, THAT IS

!

HEY! IS SOMEONE THERE!?

MEOW

IT'S JUST A CAT?

WHATEVER, TIME TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE

CRAP. .

LETTER

WHERE SHIT

LETTER

はあ

OI NATSUME, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT? A LETTER FROM MATOBA?

Wah!

I CAN'T FIND IT

IT'S NO GOOD .

はあ

I'VE BEEN FEELING AN UNSETTLING PRESENCE AROUND HERE LATELY, SO I DECIDED TO GO ON PATROL

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?

I CAN'T .

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM THEN? YOU DON'T NEED TO READ A LETTER FROM HIM

I COULD HAVE SHREDDED IT AND THROWN IT AWAY FOR YOU INSTEAD, BUT LET'S JUST LEAVE IT BE

BUT THIS IS ANNOY-ING!

SO THAT CAT FROM BEFORE WAS YOU...

WHAT?

AND WHAT DO I FIND, BUT A GREENHORN EXORCIST SEALING AN AYAKASHI IN A POT?

THAT HALF ASSED FOOL

HE LEFT AN UNFINISHED SEAL HERE

01

こんにちは緑川です。
21冊目のコミックスとなりました。

ありがたくて嬉しくてなりません。
一作でも多く、楽しんでもらえるような漫画を作っていけるよう取り組んでいきたいと思っております。

そっ

AH, HEY NATSUME. .

MU?

'YOU NEED IT'

'YOU MUSTN'T THROW IT AWAY NATSUME'

N.SHIMURA AND THE OTHER'S HOUSES ARE NEARBY, AND THEY WALK PAST HERE TO GET TO SCHOOL

#7

.....

I THINK THAT

.WHAT'S WRONG, SENSEI?

I THOUGHT I FELT SOMEONE WATCHING US, BUT PERHAPS IT WAS MY IMAGI-NATION...

たたたたっ

WILL YOU COME WITH ME FOR A BIT OF A LONG TRIP?

I SEE. HEY, SENSEI?

HM?

I WANT TO CALL UPON A YOUNG, EXCELLENT PERSON SUCH AS YOURSELF NEXT TIME TOO

EXCELLENT WORK

THANKS FOR WAITING, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THAT LEVEL OF AYAKASHI CAN BE EASILY TAKEN CARE OF

! PLEASE DO

IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF YOU COULD TO ATTEND

. .AH YES, THERE IS A GATHERING NEARBY

UM...

ざわ

ざわ

.....

ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE HE SENT ME BEFORE, HE SHOULD BE LIVING IN AN APARTMENT AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE .

AH

THIS LOOKS LIKE JUST THE KIND OF PLACE WHERE A GUY WHO'S ALWAYS PUTTING ON A SHOW WOULD LIVE

.I TRIED TO CALL HIM BUT HE'S NOT PICKING UP, HE MUST BE OUT

IF WE WAIT AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE HE'S BOUND TO COME BACK EVENTUALLY

WHAT!? WHY'RE YOU SO HAPPY-GO-LUCKY!?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE DO I? I COULDN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY

OI

ACTUALLY I

HIIRAGI

I JUST CAME DOWN TO CHECK THE AREA, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU NATSUME

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WANTED TO ASK NATORI FOR ADVICE ABOUT A POT WITH AN AYAKASH SEALED INSIDE

I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN SO SUDDENLY

I SEE. THANK YOU FOR COMING

.HELP?

FROM NATORI.?

ピーンポーン

ピンポ

NATORI IS IN HIS ROOM, BUT HE HAS HIS PHONE TURNED OFF AND HE'S TAKING A NAP

PUSH THE ROOM NUMBER ON THAT INTERCOM, HE… COME OUT EVENTUALLY

!

:

ピンポーン

..HELLO

カチャ

EXCUSE ME, NATORI-SAN?

IT'S NATSUME

AH, NO, COME ON IN

WAIT, WA T, JUST HOLD ON A SECOND

clatter

EH? NATSU.

NATSUME!?

HEY

ドドド

WELCOME
COME ON IN

.SORRY
FOR BARGING IN
WHILE YOU WERE
RESTING

AHAHA,
THE PLACE IS A LITTLE
EMPTY BUT THANKS
FOR COMING. PLEASE,
MAKE YOURSELF AT
HOME

. HE'S RIGHT,
IT REALLY IS
EMPTY

MY FAMILY
HOME IS A LITTLE FAR
FROM HERE, BUT I GO
BACK EVERY NOW AND
THEN TO GET THINGS
FOR WORK

I RENT
THIS PLACE FOR
WORK. AND I
PRETTY MUCH
JUST COME BACK
HERE TO
SLEEP

IT'S
A LITTLE
DRAB,
ISN'T
IT?

SO THAT'S THE BEDROOM OVER THERE IS IT?

WHAT'S THIS ROOM?

I SEE .

TEA'S READY!

AND PEOPLE LOOKING FOR TALENTED SUCCESSORS

LATELY THERE'S BEEN A PECULIAR INCREASE IN PEOPLE BUILDING A BIT OF KNOWLEDGE THEN JUMPING INTO THE BUSINESS

. I SEE. THIS IS A REAL QUICK FIX SEAL

THE EXORCIST COMMUNITY IS IN AN UPROAR OVER IT

SO THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW PEOPLE OUT THERE DOING HALF HEARTED EXPERIMENTS TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGISING FOR?

I'M HAPPY

I'M SORRY, I JUST COME ROUND ASKING FOR HELP WHEN IT SUITS ME

...YES

I'LL REDO THE SEAL, SO WILL YOU HELP ME?

ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL GATHER THE TOOLS WE NEED, SO PLEASE WAIT HERE

HIIRAGI, A HAND?

YES

SEEMS INTERESTING, I'LL COME TOO

HALF HEARTED EXPERI-MENTS...

SO THERE ARE EXORCISTS LIKE THAT TOO.

I WONDER WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN MATOBA'S LETTER?

CRAP, THE PRESENCE INSIDE IS GETTING STRONGER...

I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO ASK NATOR-SAN ABOUT THAT TOO

...mutter

mutter. .

mutter...

mu .

. rse

トルルル

I AM UNABLE TO COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW

PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP

トルルル

ガチャ

はっ

AH

NATORI-SAN, THE PHONE IS RINGING...

WHAT IS THIS SOMEONE IS MUTTERING SOMETHING ?

...rse

some kind of spell...

1 2 ABC
4 GHI 5 JKL
7 PQRS 8 TUV
* /. IT'S ALMOST LIKE. .

!

THE POT...

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

...stard, accept my curse

AH...

I'M READY, AS SOON AS YOU LET GO COME OVER TO THIS CIRCLE

NATORI-SAN, THE POT IS BREAKING!

NATSUME

OKAY.

It's going to break!

はぁ

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ばん

Movement that is not cause by the wind

ば

ばん

Be sealed!

ん

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お

お

You who have turned against us!

THERE IT GOES

AHAHA, THAT'S ALRIGHT!

..SORRY, YOUR ROOM IS A MESS NOW

..BUT WHAT WAS WITH THAT PHONE CALL?

...THANK YOU

THIS IS WHY I UNPLUG THE PHONE WHEN I SLEEP

.....

SEEMS LIKE WE HAD SOME BAD TIMING, AND THAT POT REACTED TO THE CURSE

I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT DIDN'T I? THERE'S A LOT OF UNREST AT THE MOMENT, AND SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE TRYING TO HARASS ME WITH CURSES

WHAT!?

I THINK I MENTIONED IT BEFORE, BUT THE NATORI CLAN ARE DESCENDED FROM A LONG LINE OF EXORCISTS

BUT I'VE BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN SEE

OTHER EXORCISTS HAVE CLANS THAT THEY DON'T FAVOUR

BUT AREN'T EXORCISTS... PEOPLE?

WHY WOULD THEY DO SOMETHING SO.

EVENTUALLY LESS AND LESS PEOPLE WITH THE ABILTY TO SEE WERE BORN, AND WE'RE NOW AN OUTDATED CLAN WHO'VE GIVEN UP THE PRACTICE

OF COURSE THEY'D BE JEALOUS IF SOMEONE SO SKILLED STARTED WORKING AGAIN

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE MERCILESSLY RIDICULED AS THE CLAN WHO RAN AWAY

BACK THEN

I THINK I WANTED YOU TO BECOME MY ALLY

NOW I REGRET GETTING YOU INVOLVED WITH THE EXORCISTS

I WANTED YOU TO HELP ME

...THANK YOU

BUT NOW I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO HELP YOU

BUT I'M GLAD I CAN TALK TO NATORI-SAN

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF EXORCISTS

I'M FINE, THANK YOU

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED A LIFT?

I WASN'T ABLE TO ASK HIM ABOUT MATOBA-SAN

'NOW I REGRET GETTING YOU INVOLVED'

EVEN THOUGH, IN THE END

THIS MIGHT BE SOME-THING

I NEED TO OVERCOME ON MY OWN

...DEAR DEAR, YOU'RE AWFULLY LATE COMING HOME

DID YOU READ MY INVITATION?

I'VE COME TO COLLECT YOU

第五十二話

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

ハッ

MATOBA-SAN.

ドクン

I'VE COME TO COLLECT YOU

DID YOU READ MY INVITATION?

ドクン

ハッ

I DIDN'T READ IT

IT GOT BLOWN AWAY BY THE WIND AND I LOST IT

THAT LETTER

BY INVITATION, YOU MEAN.

THAT'S THE KIND OF EXCUSE I'D EXPECT FROM A SMALL CHILD

I, I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS BUT IT'S TRUE!

..THIS IS TROUBLING WE CAN CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THIS HERE IF YOU LIKE

BUT I HAVE A CAR WAITING NEARBY

GO WITH HIM, NATSUME

THE MORE THE MERRIER . IN MY STOMACH THAT IS

SENSEI

WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, THERE S NO HOSTILITY ON MY END

WELL THEN, SHALL WE TAKE A LITTLE WALK?

.....

I HAVE FOUND A PLACE NEARBY THAT SEEMS APPRO-PRIATE

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR

I WIL- RE-TURN YOU

REAL THING?

THE REAL THING IS TOMORROW AFTER ALL

THERE HAS BEEN AN OUTBREAK OF ATTACKS ON POWERFUL PRACTITIONERS BY AN UNKNOWN FORCE

A 'MEETING'

.EH?

I DISCOVERED THAT THE CULPRIT APPEARS TO BE AMONG THE EXORCISTS

WHEN I TRIED INVESTIGATING UNDERCOVER

.AND THINGS HAVE BECOME A LITTLE TROUBLESOME

!

IDENTIFYING THEM IS DIFFICULT AND WE ARE STRUGGLING

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE CULPRIT AMONGST THE EXORCISTS, AND IT IS A HUMAN BEING POSSESSED BY AN AYAKASHI

THAT EXORCIST S MOST LIKELY BEING CONTROLLED BY AN AYAKASHI

WE WILL BE ABLE TO DRAG IT OUT, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE MESSY

IT HAS BECOMING TROUBLESOME, SO I THOUGHT IF WE GATHER ALL THE POWERFUL EXORCISTS IN ONE PLACE

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU - POWERFUL, BUT NOT AN EXORCIST, TO HELP, SO I SENT YOU AN INVITATION

YES, CERTAINLY ACTING WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU IS FOOLISH

EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW WHO WILL ATTACK, OR WHEN? ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS?

..THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HAVING A MEETING .?

YOU'LL HELP ME, WON'T YOU?

WHAT?

I WILL COME FOR YOU AGAIN TOMORROW

PLEASE SLEEP ON IT

!

WHY WOULD I GO ALONG WITH YOUR SELFISH. .

!

SHALL I TELL THEM FOR YOU THEN?

WHY? HAVEN'T YOU TOLD THAT COUPLE ABOUT YOUR ABILITY?

NO. . THIS ASIDE, YOU CAN'T JUST COME TO MY HOUSE!

SHALL I TELL THEM

HOW TERRIFYING THE THINGS YOU SEE ARE, AND THAT YOU HAVE HAD HORRIFYING EXPERIENCE AFTER HORRIFYING EXPERIENCE?

THAT THIS HASN'T CHANGED, EVEN NOW?

!

AND 'YOU TWO, LIVING IN PEACE, HAVE NO POWER TO PROTECT HIM'?

STOP IT!

ANYWAY, PLEASE DON'T COME NEAR MY HOUSE!

I'M GOING HOME

IF YOU ARE NOT HERE, I W... COME

THEN I WILL BE WAITING HERE AT NOON TOMORROW

タタッ

……

I CAN'T LET HIM FIND OUT ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS .

SO? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

..TODAY THERE WAS TOO MUCH OF EVERYTHING I'M EXHAUSTED

.I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH MATOBA-SAN .

BUT

'IF YOU ARE NOT HERE I WILL COME'

.ATTACKS ON POWERFUL PRACTITIONERS BY AN UNKNOWN FORCE. HUH .

CO-

COMING!

TAKASHI-KUN, DINNER-

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY'VE TRIED TO ATTACK NATORI-SAN TOO. .

02

❄蛍火の杜へ

以前描かせて頂いた短編「蛍火の杜へ」をアニメ映画にして頂けました。
上映をお引き受けくださった劇場様方、足をお運び頂いた皆様、ありがとうございました。

夏目アニメの監督・スタッフ・音楽・美術様方にゆっくりと穏やかで、でもけして止める事が出来ない時間の流れる素敵な映画を作って頂けました。
自分も関わらせて頂いた作品で泣くのは、照れくさくて堪えようと思って頑張ったのですが、何気ないシーンに気付くと涙が流れておりました。

原作はかなり以前の作品なのですが大事に読んでくださっている方もいらっしゃる作品だったので、アニメ化は、嬉しくもあり恐くもあったのですが、大森監督やスタッフ様達が細やかに組み上げてくださいました。
機会がありましたら、ぜひご一見されてみてください。

WELL THEN, LET'S GO

YES, LET'S DO THAT SHALL WE?

YOU'RE TRAVELLING LIGHT

NOT REALLY ..

PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH ANY NECESSARY THINGS

I HAD A MEETING WITH A POLITICIAN WHILE I WAS IN THE AREA

MANY PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF ENEMIES ARE VERY SUPER-STITIOUS

.I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING WHY YOU'VE BEEN WEARING SUITS

JUST KIDDING

..BUT STILL

YOU ALSO SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE PEOPLE YOU CAN USE

!

THE MATOBA CLAN HAVE HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THEM FOR A LONG TIME, SO WE TAKE GREAT CARE OF PEOPLE WHO WE CAN USE LIKE THAT

I DO WONDER WHAT BECAME OF MY LETTER

WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS THE PLACE

IT'S A BRANCH HOUSE WE'LL BE USING FOR THE MEETING PLACE

...IT'S HUGE...

..WHERE ARE WE? IS THIS YOUR HOUSE, MATOBA-SAN. .?

OH, A BRANCH ..

WHAT!? ANOTHER ONE!?

WELCOME BACK

はっ

WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON IN

!

PLEASE USE THE ROOM AT THE BACK

.IT'S SO BIG . JUST HOW MANY BRANCH HOUSES DO YOU HAVE?

THE MEETING IS IN AN HOUR, I'LL NEED YOU TO GET CHANGED FOR IT

EH. .?

DISCON-TINUED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS TO EXORCIST CLANS WHEN NO ONE WHO CAN SUCCEED THEM S BORN?

HAHA, I CALL THEM BRANCH HOUSES, BUT WE ARE JUST MAKING USE OF THE HOUSES OF THOSE WHO WERE ONCE AFFILIATED WITH THE MATOBA, BUT WERE DISCONTINUED, OR WHOSE HEADS HAVE PASSED AWAY

IF A FAMILY HAD NO ONE WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE WE WOULD SUPPORT THEM, IT WAS A COLLECTION OF EXORCISTS WHO MADE CONTRACTS TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS

THE MATOBA CLAN USED TO BE ELEVEN FAMILIES, OVER WHICH THE MASTER EXORCIST, HEAD OF THE MATOBA FAMILY, HELD LEADERSHIP

...

EVEN SO, A LOT OF FAMILIES, LIKE THE ONE WHO LIVED HERE, DIED OUT

JUST BECAUSE YOU LOSE THE ABILITY TO SEE THEM DOESN'T MEAN THE GRUDGES YOU'VE ACCUMULATED FROM AYAKASHI WILL DISAPPEAR

MOST EXORCIST FAMILIES END UP FACING THIS FEAR AND PROBLEM

IT SEEMS THEY HAVE BECOME A FAMILY WHO FEAR THAT EVERY LITTLE MISFORTUNE IS THE REVENGE OF AN AYAKASHI

SEARCHED FOR SOMEONE TO ADOPT, OR AN HEIR WHO COULD SEE, TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS PAINFUL TO WATCH, BUT IN THE END THEY GAVE UP THE TRADE

THE FAMED NATORI CLAN, WHO OPPOSED THE MATOBA AND MANY OTHER FAMILIES

SO HE TOO MUST BE DISGUSTED BY HIS FAMILY

AMONGST THEM, SHUUICHI-SAN, WHO IS CONNECTED WITH AYAKASHI ONCE MORE, WAS BORN

SO I AM CURRENTLY INCREASING OUR AFFILIATIONS

...WELL, GATHERING FAMILIES INVOLVES A LOT OF TROUBLE-SOME THINGS, BUT THERE IS ALSO A LOT TO BE GAINED

IF YOU DO, I'LL PROTECT YOU

SO HOW ABOUT IT? WON'T YOU JOIN THE MATOBA CLAN?

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SAYING THIS WITH THE MOUTH THAT SAID MAKE USE OF PEOPLE YOU CAN USE?

I OFTEN MISTAKE MY WORDS

HAHA, THAT IS TRUE

I APOLO-GISE

LET ME REPHRASE THAT

Gya-aaa-aah!

ヒ"ク"

.YES

...MASTER

SOMETHING APPEARS TO BE CAUSING A RUCKUS IN THE GROUNDS

I WILL GO TO INVESTIGATE, SO WAIT HERE

EH...

AND THIS PLACE CREEPS ME OUT

ずきん

IT'S OVERFLOWING WITH HUMAN AND AYAKASHI PRESENCES, I FEEL SICK ..

SENSEI, WHAT DO YOU...

ずきん

..THIS IS NO GOOD

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO HIM .

ビキ ビキ ビキ

WAH, SENSEI!?

A-as you'd expect of the Matoba clan.. this nasty barrier is making me really ill

ugh. don't tell me to eat or drink. I' get heartburn.

WHAT!? WHY'RE YOU TALKING LIKE A MIDDLE AGED MAN WHO'S DRUNK TOO MUCH. .

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER SENSE, YOU WERE TALKING SO BIG . WEREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT THEM TILL YOU WERE FULL!?

ｵﾏ

OH?
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
AROUND HERE
BEFORE

.WITH A
FACE .IKE THAT,
MATOBA MUST
HAVE FOUND YOUR
WEAKNESS AND
DRAGGED YOU
HERE MUSTN'T
HE?

WHAT?

YOU'RE ..
HUMAN,
AREN'T YOU?
RELAX, SO
AM I

HAHA,
SORRY TO
FRIGHTEN
YOU

I HAD BUSINESS HERE SO I DROPPED BY .. BY THE LOOKS OF IT, THE HEAD OF THE MATOBA IS BUSY WITH SOMETHING AS ALWAYS

I AM AN EXORCIST, BUT I HAVEN'T FALLEN SO FAR AS TO BE AFFILIATED WITH THE MATOBA

.ARE YOU PART OF THE MATOBA CLAN TOO ..?

PERISH THE THOUGHT

UM, NO THANKS

I DON'T KNOW YOUR SITUATION, BUT CHEER UP HERE, HAVE SOME GUM

CHEWING IT WILL EASE YOUR NERVES

CHILDREN SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK!

...

.HUH?

しゃ しゃ

HE LOOKS SO ODD

MATOBA IS SO DISAGREEABLE, ISN'T HE?

しゃ

.THANK YOU...

ぱ

くろま くろま

……

くろま

くろま

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, NATSUME-KUN

くろま

くろま

WHAT THE HUH..?

AN AYAKASHI THAT SNUCK INSIDE WAS MAKING A FUSS IN THE GROUNDS, SO I HAD TO.

AH, I KNEW IT WAS STRANGE THIS PERSON.

IF YOU COULD HEAR ME OUT

I ALSO HAVE A PRIVATE MATTER.

YES, I WANTED TO ASK YOU TO ALLOW ME TO PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S MEETING

OH, YOU CAME HERE?

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW UNLESS YOU LOOKED CLOSELY, BUT

EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS, HER FACE ISN'T MOVING

EXCEPT FOR HER EYES

WHY ARE YOU WEARING A MASK?

IT'S NOT A MASK

HO~

ｶﾞﾊﾞ

ｶﾞﾊﾞ

GET BACK!

THERE'S AN AYAKASHI STUCK TO THIS PERSON'S FACE...

How dare you see through me brat

ｶﾘ

ｶﾘ

AH

How dare you interfere ...

!

No.1

!?

ばら

ば
ら

NATSUME-KUN

WELL DONE

...

BUT WE'RE BEING UNDERESTIMATED TOO IT WOULD SEEM, FOR IT TO SEND SUCH A WEAKLING

IT'S VERY RARE TO BE ABLE TO TELL IF A HUMAN IS BEING POSSESSED

THIS GUY'S AMAZING

SO IT'S AN AYAKASHI THAT CONTROLS PEOPLE BY STICKING TO THEIR FACES LIKE A MASK?

UGH

THAT ONE WAS A WEAKLING

BUT I WONDER WHICH EXORCIST THE RINGLEADER IS POSSESSING IN THE SAME WAY?

I COULD ONLY SEE A NORMAL WOMAN SPEAKING IN A NORMAL WAY..

I KNOW THAT YOU HATE EXORCISTS, BUT HOW ABOUT IT?

WON'T YOU THINK OF IT AS HELPING PEOPLE JUST THIS ONCE AND ASSIST US?

BUT IF I HAD EYES LIKE YOURS, PERHAPS I COULD PERCEIVE THE INCONGRUOUS, LIKE A MASK

BUT I WONDER WHICH EXORCIST THIS AYAKASHI WILL TARGET NEXT

YES, FOR THE MOMENT

IS THIS PERSON OKAY ?

'I WANTED YOU TO BECOME MY ALLY'

'I THINK'

THAT HAS NO-THING TO DO WITH

'BUT NOW'

'I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO HELP YOU'

IT'S FOR MYSELF

AND IT'S NOT TO HELP YOU.

.THIS TIME ONLY

IT'S SO THAT FROM NOW ON

I CAN LEARN HOW TO PROTECT THE THINGS I WANT TO PROTECT

AND HOW, AND WHAT

OH YES, THINGS HAVE BECOME RATHER TURBULENT ON MY END

AH. SHH, SEE

OH, T'S BEEN A WHILE

WE WILL NOW OPEN THE DOORS.

I SHOULD BE FIGHTING AGAINST...

MATOBA-SAMA, WHAT IS THAT ONE?

TODAY THERE'S ONE WITH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT COLOURED HAIR

AS USUAL HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY NOTHING BUT WEIRD SHIKI . OH

THE HEAD OF THE MATOBA HAS MADE HIS APPEARANCE

ざわ

ざわ

OH, THAT?

THAT'S A NEW SHIKI WE'VE TAKEN IN

PLEASE, PAY IT NO HEED

IT MAY NOT LOOK SO BUT IT IS RATHER VIOLENT, I ADVISE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

第五十四話（だいごじゅうよんわ）

HO,
SO THAT IS THE MATOBA HEAD'S NEW SHIKI

IT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY COLOURED THAN THE REST OF THAT SCARY BUNCH

YES,
BUT IT IS STILL IN TRAINING

IF YOU TRY TO LAY A HAND ON IT CARELESSLY YOU WILL BE BITTEN, SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.

!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ABOUT JUTSU AND AYAKASHI

PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELF LEISURELY SO THAT THIS INFORMATION EXCHANGE ALSO BECOMES THE BEGINNING OF RENEWED SOCIAL INTERACTION

ザわ

ザわ

!

ザわ

OH, MATOBA-SAN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE RECENT OPPORTUNITY

MATOBA-SAMA, PLEASE CERTAINLY PATRONIZE US AS WELL AGAIN

...THIS IS

A MEETING OF EXORCISTS

.IT'S A PLACE CONGREGATING THE DEMAND FOR BOTH INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MINGLING

PEOPLE WHO HIDE THEIR IDENTITY SHIKI AND EVEN AYAKASHI, THEY'RE ALL JUMBLED TOGETHER

PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN TRADES OF PURIFICATION

THIS IS BAD EVEN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN HUMANS AND AYAKASHI IS ALREADY DODGY

.I WONDER IF BETWEEN ALL THESE I CAN FIND THE HUMAN POSSESSED BY AN AYAKASHI

...EVIL MASK?

'IT'S PROBABLY A KIND OF EVIL MASK'

はあ…

'IF THE FIRST ONE IS THE 'PARENT', THEN THE THING THAT POSSESSED THIS WOMAN IS THE 'CHILD''

'YES, THE GHOUL MASK FIRST POSSESSES SOMEONE, AND THEN IT SENDS A CLONE OF ITSELF TO CONTROL A CONVENIENT PERSON AND MAKE THEM DO ITS BIDDING'

SO BASICALLY

'SKILLED EXORCISTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ATTACKED BY PEOPLE BEING POSSESSED

IF YOU DO NOT DESTROY THE 'PARENT' THEN THIS WILL CONTINUE ENDLESSLY

NO, IT SEEMS HE IS ABSENT THIS TIME

NOW YOU MENTION IT, IS THE NATORI YOUNGSTER HERE?

THERE'S A LOT OF BIG SHOTS HERE

AS YOU'D EXPECT OF A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE MATOBA CLAN

.THANK GOODNESS, I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY IF HE SAW ME LIKE THIS...

OI, YOU

THEY SAY YOU'RE MATOBA-SAN'S NEW SHIKI?

.OH?

THIS? IT .OOKS PRETTY WEAK

WHAT CAN IT DO?

DO SOME TRICKS FOR US!

SERVE US SOME SAKE OR SOME-THING!

EXOR-CISTS ?

COME ON, DO IT!

bump

OW

WH, WHAT HAPPENED!? JUST NOW SOMETHING THAT FELT REALLY HEAVY LANDED ON MY ..

E- EXCUSE ME

AH

Gyaa! What is this sack of a cat like thing!?

COME ON, LET'S CATCH IT ..

ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY!? HOW INSOLENT

Eek

WAH

ぴゃー

SENSEI !

UGH... I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING BRUSHED PAST MY LEGS. .

OW

WAH'? WHAT HAPPENED?

. SENSEI, ARE YOU OKAY?

YES, WEARING THIS NULLIFIES THE BARRIER'S EFFECTS

COME ON, LET'S GO HUNT DOWN SOME FREE BOOZE!

.....

.SENSE. DID YOU JUST HEAR A STRANGE SOUND?

..SOUND?

YEAH. LIKE THE SOUND OF A CLOCK BEING WOUND.

はっ

カニッ

THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR, ? I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHING OUT HERE FOR A MOMENT THOUGH

!

13

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

...UM. WAS THERE SOMETHING STRANGE OUTSIDE A SECOND AGO?

HAHA, THERE IS NOTHING BUT STRANGE THINGS HERE ARE YOU. A SHIKI? WHOSE?

...NO, UM...

OH, NATSUME

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?

MATOBA-SAN...

I SENSED SOMETHING STRANGE OUTSIDE. .

HO. THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE MATOBA-SAN?

IT WOULD BE ANNOYING IF OTHER EXORCISTS HAD THE R EYES ON YOU, AND THIS MAKES T HARDER FOR THEM TO INVESTIGATE YOUR DENTITY DOESN'T IT?

IF I WALKED AROUND WITH YOU LIKE NATORI DOES

OH, THAT IS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE

CALL HIM MATOBA-SAMA YOU SCUM!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, WHY DO I HAVE TO DRESS UP AS A SHIKI ANYWAY .?

<

A CHARM ..?

AH AH

I WILL WRITE A CHARM ON IT

.OH YES, PLEASE HOLD OUT YOUR HAND

I CAN'T WRITE THIS ON MY SHIKI BECAUSE THEY ARE AYAKASHI, SO YOU REALLY ARE CONVENIENT

IF I WENT AROUND TOUCHING THINGS WITH A SPELL ON MY HAND THE PARENT MASK MIGHT BECOME SUSPICIOUS AND ESCAPE

!...

IT'S A SPELL. IF THERE IS SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS AROUND AND YOU TOUCH THEM WITH THIS SYMBOL

THEIR DISGUISE WILL COME OFF JUST LIKE THE MARKING SAYS

!...

I WONDER

WHAT ON EARTH NATORI-SAN'S GECKO IS. .

IT'S LIKE A TATTOO.

A CHARM

I SEE...

NO, AS YOU'D EXPECT, EVEN I DO NOT KNOW ALL AYAKASHI

YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER, MATOBA-SAN?

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE IT WILL ONE DAY DISAPPEAR...?

YES, WELL IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT SIMPLY

NOW I THINK OF IT . THAT GECKO .

APPARENTLY THE ONLY PLACE IT WON'T GO IS HIS LEFT LEG I WONDER WHY .?

..EH ..?

THEY ARE THINGS THAT CAST UNCERTAIN UNEASINESS AND SHADOWS ON PEOPLE'S HEARTS, IN THAT DISQUIETING MANNER

BUT AYAKASHI ARE LIKE THAT

THAT'S JUST AN EXAMPLE

封

ELIMINATING THEM IS THE WORK OF US EXORCISTS

PEOPLE ARE COWARDLY, AREN'T THEY?

THE THINGS THAT TERRIFY THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR LIVES ARE AYAKASHI

封

CAN YOU KEEP ENDURING THAT?

HAVE YOU NEVER RETURNED TO YOUR HOME AND THOUGHT THAT ANY MISFORTUNE THAT OCCURS THERE

IS THE FAULT OF YOURSELF AND THE AYAKASHI?

ガタ

Kyaa-aah!

THAT'S

THIS DISCUSSION ENDS HERE!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, I WILL NEVER JOIN YOUR CLAN!

I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DEALING WITH THEM!

HONESTLY, WHAT AN UNPLEASANT GUY. I CAN EAT HIM WHENEVER YOU LIKE

YEAH

YOU FOOL

IS SOMETHING WRONG!?

YES, WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR TO THE BREAK ROOM, SOMEONE WAS COLLAPSED ON THE FLOOR

ARE YOU OKAY?

...AH

MU? THIS IS THAT GREENHORN EXORCIST FROM YESTERDAY

.UGH

.THIS. THIS S KIND OF EMBARRASSING FOR SOME REASON

.MAYBE HE'S NOT

.UGH

封

THIS PERSON MIGHT HAVE THE MASK

THE FACE

WHAT WAS?

WHAT?

I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO DRIVE IT OFF, BUT IT CAME FLYING TOWARD ME, IT WAS AIMING FOR ME.

. WHAT ON EARTH..

.UGH. IT CAME FLYING AT ME.

NO, I...

DON'T LIE, IF NOT YOU THEN WHO...

ばっ

ガバッ

!

HEY AYAKASHI, GET AWAY FROM HIM!

ばた

HEY, WHAT'S AL.. THIS RACKET .?

ばた

!

03

※西村

西村の夏目のようなタイプへの第一印象は、「ムシが好かない」だろうなと思っています。
けれど嫌いや苦手なものにも好奇心というか、どこが苦手なのか探ってしまう性格で、たまにそこがトラブルのもとになる行動派なキャラとして考えています。
一学年上の先輩とよく衝突するイメージで、逆に北本は先輩を立てるタイプというのが、すごく初期からの設定イメージでした。
反面、相手が自分に弱さを見せてくれたら、おれがどうにかしてやる！と思ってしまう、作中一のおひとよしかとも思っています。

A GREENHORN LIKE THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR POSSESSION

AND IS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO CONTROL

.I EXPECT THE GHOUL MASK HAS SENT OUT A CHILD MASK

AT ANY RATE WE NEED TO FIND THE HUMAN WHO IS BEING POSSESSED BY THE RINGLEADER, THAT GHOUL MASK

USING GREENHORN EXORCISTS TO ATTACK POWERFUL ONES... IT'S QUITE THE VULGAR ONE

YEAH

..AS YOU'D EXPECT OF MATOBA, ISN'T THIS JUST HIS WAY OF PICKING ON YOU?

UGH

This is really inefficient!!

Hmf

Sorry um.. there's some dust on your cheek.

What? How scary

Um. Have you seen a flying face ?

That shiki is awfully friendly with humans

I'VE SEEN MANY TH NGS

THAT CAN'T BE HELPED

..THERE ARE SOME THINGS

WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A METHOD AT AL.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, WITH HUMANS AND AYAKASHI MIXING EVERY-WHERE

LIKE THAT

...

Excuse me have you seen a weird mask?

THI, THIS PLACE IS HUGE

IT REMINDS ME OF OMIBA-SHIRA'S MANSION

YEAH

BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT IT DOESN'T FEEL ANYTHING LIKE A GATHERING WITH ONLY AYAKASHI

HEY, WHAT IF SOMEONE HEARS YOU?

BUT THAT SHIKI MATOBA BROUGHT ALONG HAS AN USUALLY NICE FORM DOESN'T IT?

SOME PEOPLE FROM THE MATOBA WERE ATTACKED TOO. SERVES THEM RIGHT

I'VE HEARD EXORCISTS ARE BEING ATTACKED LATELY HOW TERRIFYING

REALLY, HOW SHAMELESS..

HPMH, NO DOUBT HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SOME WEAKNESS, AND HE'LL JUST USE T THEN THROW IT AWAY

WHAT KIND OF CONTRACT DID THEY MAKE?

THAT'S WHY HE CAN'T MAKE CONTRACTS WITH DECENT AYAKASHI OR UPSTANDING PEOPLE. ONLY EYESORES HE IS USING THE WEAKNESSES OF OR CONTROLLING WITH SPELLS WILL COME NEAR HIM

THAT EYEPATCH IS PROOF THAT HE IS SOMEONE WHO BREAKS CONTRACTS

MATOBA TARNISHES THE NAME OF EXORCISTS

キリリ!

キリリ

キリキリ

AFTER ALL, THE FEW DECENT SHIKI HERE ARE OLD SHIKI FROM THE VARIOUS FAMILIES

THAT HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE TIME WHEN THERE WERE STILL ELEVEN GREAT CLANS'

THIS SOUND...

WHERE IS IT COMING FROM...?

FROM THE GROUND FLOOR...

ﾐﾐ

ﾐﾐ

ﾐﾐ

IT'S THAT ROOM

ぎぃ

.OH, YOU'RE

FROM BEFORE

だだ…

は

っ

Gi

はっ

I found it!

!!

!
I DID IT

I'll crush Matoba, I will crush him!

I will crush all of Matoba's allies!

Gyah

ドドド…

IT'S RUNNING AWAY …

!

SENSEI

TSK

ざわ

ざわ

ガタ

ガタ

ガタ

ガバッ

ざわっ

UGGGH!

ばたん

ばたん

!

WHAT'S THAT...!?

A FOX .!?

A GIANT DOG .!?

IS THAT BEAST YOURS!? WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING LETTING IT THRASH AROUND IN HERE!?

WHAT IS THAT LITTLE DEMON SAYING...?

PLEASE RUN AWAY!

THIS AYAKASHI POSSESSES PEOPLE!

AH.

HEY, GET DOWN HERE

QUICKLY, WHILE SENSEI IS HOLDING IT DOWN.

AH...

NATSU...

Weaklings, hide your faces

UWAH

You will be possessed by this ayakashi

WOW .. AS EXPECTED ON MATOBA-SAMA
MATOBA-SAMA
.....
WOW
.....

. AND SO

THE GHOUL MASK INCIDENT WAS SETTLED AND THE MEETING WAS AD-JOURNED

IS THE PERSON WHO WAS POSSESSED BY THE GHOUL MASK'S REAL BODY OKAY?

HE PROBABLY WON'T WAKE UP FOR A WHILE THAT MAKES IT HARD TO PUNISH HIM

!

HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT SOMEONE WHO WAS BEING POSSESSED!?

IF HE WAS SMALL GAME IT WOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE

HOWEVER HE IS ONE OF THE EXORCISTS WHO OPPOSES THE MATOBA HE IS MOST LIKELY THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS

HE PROBABLY WANTED THE 'POWER TO CONTROL PEOPLE', SO HE KNOWINGLY ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE POSSESSED

BUT NOW

..WHAT .?

THERE WERE MANY VICTIMS AMONGST THOSE AFFILIATED WITH THE MATOBA CLAN

MANY SPECULATED IT WAS THE DOING OF SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO WEAKEN OUR INFLUENCE, BUT WE COULDN'T SEEM TO SMOKE HIM OUT

OK!

THANKS TO YOU, WE WERE ABLE TO FIND AN ENEMY OF THE MATOBA

OH, THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL ILL AT EASE

BECAUSE THIS WAY THERE WILL BE NO MORE VICTIMS

...SO

IF YOU JOIN THE MATOBA, I CAN PROTECT YOU

DID YOU KNOW?

IT IS SAID YOU CAN RETAIN GREAT POWER BY HAVING 'DEALINGS' WITH POWERFUL AYAKASHI

AS LONG AS THE HEAD

AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO HAVE MY RIGHT EYE TARGETED BY A GREAT AYAKASHI

.OH, YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PAPER IN YOUR HAIR .

LONG LETTER

I WROTE

AN UNCHARACTER-STICALLY

OH YES

REALLY, I WONDER WHERE ON EARTH IT COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO

THE MATOBA WILL CONTINUE AS ALWAYS, IF SOMETHING ARISES AGAIN PLEASE LEND US A HAND

IF YOU DIDN'T READ IT, THEN THAT IS THAT .. PERHAPS THIS IS FATE

BUT ANYWAY

HAHA

SENSEI, WE'RE GOING HOME!

HMPH

HOW ON EARTH DID YOU MAKE A CONTRACT WITH SUCH A BIG AYAKASHI?

I DIDN'T MAKE A CONTRACT

I MADE A PROMISE

...GOOD WORK

. .IS IT OKAY LIKE THIS?
BUT YOU'RE AS WORRYING AS ALWAYS
REALLY NATSUME. . YOU MANAGED TO RESOLVE IT IN THE END
YES
IT'S FINE THIS WAY

THE TALE OF THE SECRET BEHIND THE CONNECTION - END

Special Arc 10 Nishimura and Natsume

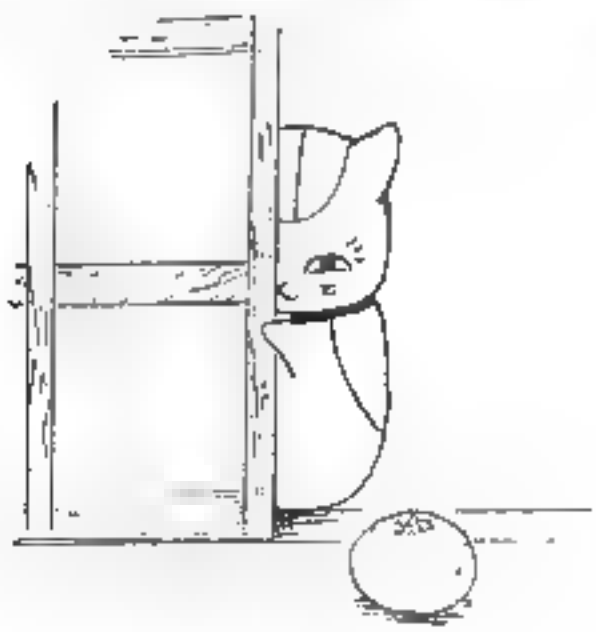
THAT MORNING, MY EXCITEMENT ROSE TO THE MAX

SERIOUSLY!? IS IT A GIRL!? IT'S A GIRL RIGHT!?

NISHIMURA! I HEARD OUR CLASS IS GETTING A TRANSFER STUDENT

I'M FROM HIGASAKI CITY

MY NAME IS NATSUME TAKASHI, NICE TO MEET YOU



AND IN THE SPACE OF A FEW MINUTES, IT FLOWED AWAY LIKE THE EVENING SEA

OH IT'S A GUY

ALRIGHT THEN, YOU CAN SIT THERE NATSUME

OKAY

HI

hey

whisper whisper

AH WHAT KIND OF BREAD SHOULD I BUY FOR LUNCH TODAY?

HE'S KIND OF COOL ISN'T HE?

DON'T YOU MEAN PLAIN. AND HE'S SO PALE!

...

...HI

.. I DON'T KNOW WHY

QUIET AND UNASSUMING

HE WAS FRIENDLY, AND ALWAYS RETURNED YOUR SMILES

Higasaki City was it? That's pretty far away

Yeah

BUT I THOUGHT HE SEEMED LIKE AN UNUSUALLY CALM AND MATURE GUY

SEEMS LIKE MY BROTHER'S MOCK EXAM RESULTS WEREN'T VERY GOOD, SO THINGS ARE A LITTLE TENSE AT MY PLACE

HUH? YEAH

A TRANSFER STUDENT HUH?

AND YOU'RE EATING MELON BREAD AGAIN TODAY?

NOTHING PARTICULARLY STOOD OUT ABOUT HIM

LOOK, IN THE BACK GARDEN

AH, THAT'S HIM

HUH?

SHUT UP

YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING INTO FIGHTS WITH PEOPLE OVER THE DUMBEST THINGS

. YOU PHRASED IT BADLY AGAIN DIDN'T YOU?

IT SEEMED LIKE A BOTHER FOR MY MUM TO HAVE TO MAKE MY LUNCH, SO I SAID I DIDN'T NEED IT ANYMORE

..OH, I GET IT MAYBE

HE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO TALK TO HIM?

I DON'T THINK IT'S A MATTER OF WHETHER HE WAS INVITED OR NOT. NOW I THINK ABOUT IT OUTSIDE OF CLASSES HE'S EITHER NOT AROUND OR HE'S ASLEEP SOMEWHERE

THAT'S THE TRANSFER STUDENT I WAS JUST THINKING I HADN'T SEEN HIM AROUND. WHAT'S HE EATING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT FOR?

OH.

WHAT'S GOING ON THERE, DIDN'T ANYONE INVITE HIM TO SIT WITH THEM?

Huh, me?

Nishimura- go and get the role from the biology room please

HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH A BUNCH OF COUNTRY BUMPKINS

HE'S ALWAYS SMILING BUT MAYBE

I'M PRETTY SURE THE THIRD YEARS ARE USING THIS CLASSROOM NEXT PERIOD

SLEEPING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS AGAIN

AH THE TRANSFER STUDENT

HUH.?

Mutter

Mutter

Mutter

Mutter

stay back

go away

go away

Mutter

HEY TRANSFER STUDENT, WAKE UP THE THIRD YEARS ARE COMING, LET'S GO BACK TO CLASS

HEY.

Hă.

HE LOOKS LIKE THE TYPE TO GET PICKED ON

WOAH

Stay back!

AH. NO. HALF ASLEEP. ?

DID I SAY SOME-THING WEIRD?

SO, SORRY, I WAS HALF ASLEEP

HUH?

With reactions too

AHAHAHAHAHA! SORRY, BUT THAT'S HILARIOUS!

Ahahaha

PFFT

AHAHAHAHAHA! I'VE NEVER HEARD SOMEONE SLEEP TALK SO CLEARLY!

AH

S-SORRY MAN, I WASN'T TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF YOU OR ANYTHING.

NO

I LAUGHED TOO HARD

...

Blush

NO-NO WORRIES

HUH? FIRST YEARS? WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HURRY UP AND GET OUT

EEEK

THANK YOU

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT HIS NORMAL "SMILES MUST ALL BE FAKE

BUT WHEN I LOOKED AT IT ANOTHER WAY

S-

SORRY! C'MON LET'S GO

IT FELT LIKE THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME

I SAW THE EVER SMILING TRANSFER STUDENT SMILE

FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS EVERY NOW AND THEN THE TRANSFER STUDENT WOULD COME AND TALK TO ME

OH, HEY NISHIMURA. KITAMOTO SAID TO TELL YOU TO GO ON AHEAD, BECAUSE HE HAS A CAREER COUNSELLING SESSION TODAY

THANKS

KITAMOTO- LET'S GO HOME-

HUH?

IT MADE ME A LITTLE HAPPY

"BE QUIET SATORU. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOUR BROTHER, WHY WON'T YOU CO-OPERATE WITH THE FAMILY?"

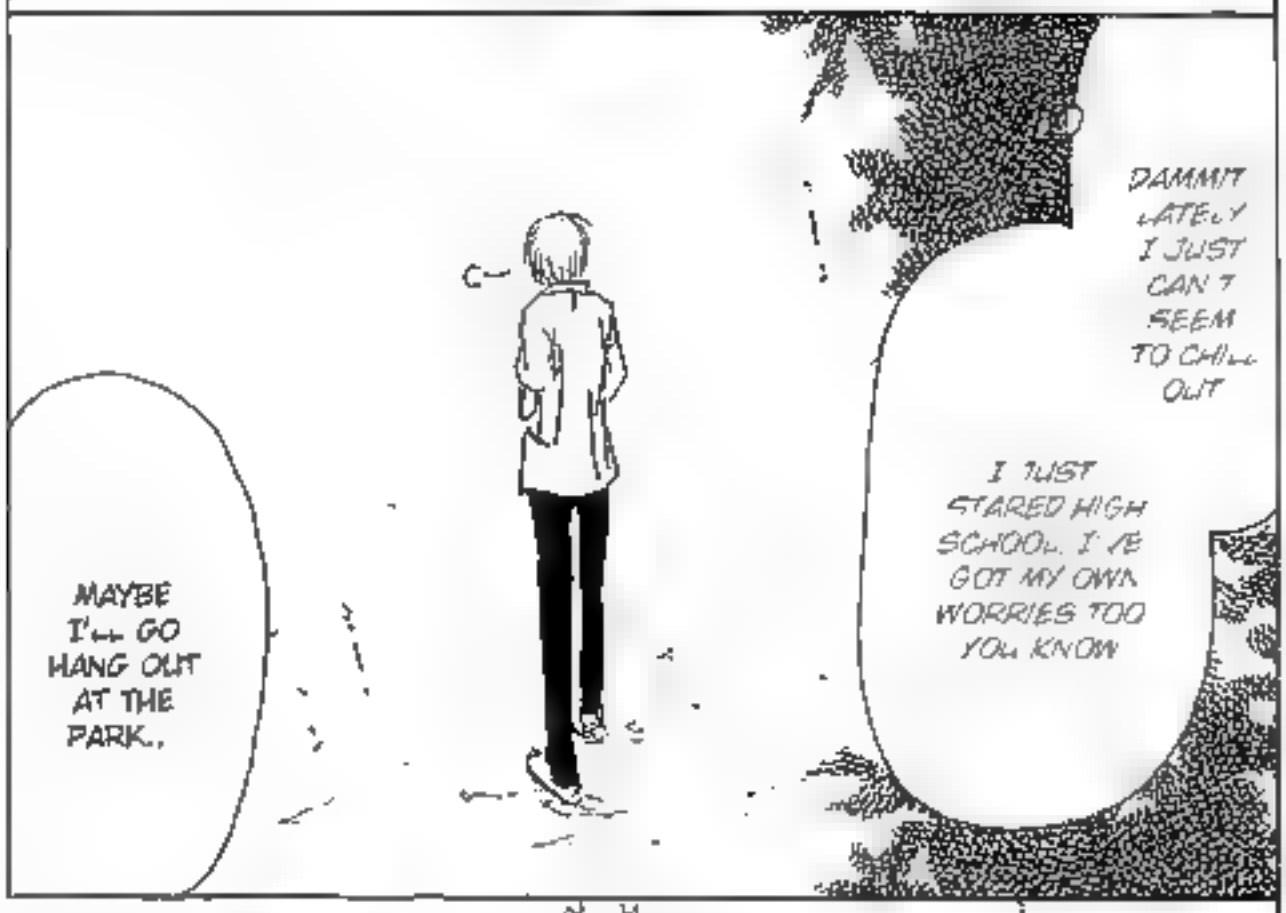
"SATORU."

DAMN I WANTED TO KILL SOME TIME WITH KITAMOTO BEFORE GOING HOME

04

❀北本

気をつかいなれているキャラだと思っています。怒ったり衝突しなくても答えを出す方法があると考えられるタイプなので、夏目は北本のそういう所を尊敬していて、北本自身は西村のような奔放さに憧れがあるというイメージです。
無意識に責任感をしょいこんでしまうちょっと不器用な所があって、そこが夏目と波長があい、一緒にいても気負わなくていい関係につながっていけばと思って描いたキャラクターでした。



NA.

NATSUME ..!?

ガサ

ガサ

ガサ

ガサ

ガサ

HEY, COME AND REST AT MY PLACE

. AH, I THINK MY HOUSE MIGHT BE CLOSER

WHAT!? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M FINE, I'LL JUST REST HERE

YOU LIVE AROUND HERE DON'T YOU? WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE? I'LL TAKE YOU THERE

NI-NISHIMURA...!? ..I'M FINE, JUST A LITTLE ANAEMIC.

WHAT'S WRONG!? HEY, HANG IN THERE..

I'M HOME

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE POLITE!

COME ON

. NO, BUT I .

WHAT? BUT YOU'RE SUPER PALE. . COME ON, COME IN

BUT I'M FINE HERE

. AH, THANKS NISHIMURA

phew

COME IN NATSUME MY ROOM'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR

LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HOME YET

SO YOUR ROOM'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR. ? SO'S MINE

NO.. I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU HAVE A NICE GARDEN.

. IS THERE SOMETHING OUTSIDE?

. AH

THANKS., BUT.. I'M REALLY

OH, YOU HAVE A BROTHER..? SOUNDS NICE

REALLY?

OI

HUH?

IT'S PRETTY NORMAL.

THAT'S BEEN FORCIBLY SPLIT INTO TWO.. WE USED TO GET ALONG REALLY WELL

WELL, IT'S ACTUALLY A ROOM I USED TO SHARE WITH MY BROTHER

AH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S TALKED ABOUT HIMSELF.

YOU'RE BEING NOISY

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE DOORWAY SATORU?

..AH

...

.. DO WHAT YOU WANT

THIS IS MY HOUSE TOO

SO YOU WERE HERE. I BROUGHT A FRIEND HOME. WHY DO YOU CARE?

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE STILL REALLY PALE

. I THINK. I'LL GO HOME AFTER ALL.

HUH?

. IT'S HERE .

I-I'M FINE

ばっ

ANYWAY, THANKS NISHIMURA

SEE YOU

ダッ

WHAT'S WITH HIM. .? OI, SATORU

YOU DIDN'T FORCE HIM TO COME HERE DID YOU?

NATSUME!?

I UNDERSTAND HIM BEING ANNOYED AT YOU FOR BEING A BUSYBODY, BUT REALLY, WHAT WAS WITH THAT ATTITUDE.. ?

HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS, DON'T INVITE HIM OVER AGAIN

..WHAT?

HE LOOKED UNWELL, I BROUGHT HIM HERE SO HE COULD REST

ARE YOU JUST BRINGING FRIENDS HERE TO SPITE ME BECAUSE I'VE RUN OUT OF TIME?

HE DOESN'T ..IKE YOU, DOES HE?

SEEMS LIKE HE DISLIKES NOSY PEOPLE, SO JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE

...

NATSUME WAS ABSENT THE NEXT DAY

I GUESS HIS ANAEMIA REALLY WAS PRETTY BAD

BUT I WASN'T SURE HOW TO FACE HIM ANYWAY, SO I GUESS I DODGED THAT BULLET

. IF HE WAS FEELING THAT SICK HE REALLY SHOULD HAVE RESTED

WHAT'S WITH HIM .?

YOU SURE ARE CRANKY NISHIMURA, WHAT'S UP?

NATSUME TOO HUH. WELL, HE MIGHT BE EXHAUSTED FROM BEING CONSIDERATE ALL THE TIME IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES

OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES?

YEAH, WELL I'M SURE YOU'LL HEAR THE RUMOURS SOONER OR LATER

NATSUME HAS NO PARENTS, SO APPARENTLY HE HAS TO MOVE FROM RELATIVE TO RELATIVE, SCHOOL TO SCHOOL

SEEMS LIKE HE'S BORROWING A ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF SOME DISTANT RELATIVE'S HOUSE. HE MUST ALWAYS BE WORRYING ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL

WHAT?

HE'S HAD IT ROUGH HASN'T HE?

...

" WE USED TO GET ALONG REALLY WELL"

"SO'S MINE"

SAYING SOME-THING LIKE THAT TO SOME ONE WHO'S LOST HIS FAMILY

BLUSH

...

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT

TO NATSUME, IT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE I WAS WHINING ABOUT THE DUMBEST THING

NATSUME

I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING TOO

LOOKED SO HAPPY WHEN HE SAID THAT

OH NATSUME FEELING BETTER?

YEAH.

NISHI-MURA-

HM? OH, SO YOU'RE ALRIGHT NOW?

THAT'S GOOD

. SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY LM

NISHIMURA ..

YEAH..

.. YEAH... I ENDED UP TAKING IT IN. .

.A CAT? YOU HAVE A CAT NATSU-ME?

REALLY? TOUKO-SAN AND SHIGERU-SAN MUST BE HAPPY

AFTER THAT, IT GOT KIND OF HARD TO TALK TO NATSUME

HE FLOATED IN AND OUT LIKE ALWAYS.. AFTER A WHILE, HE STOPPED TALKING TO ME TOO

..

IT SEEMED LIKE HE SOMETIMES TALKED TO TSUJI HE'S THE CLASS PRESIDENT AND HE LIKES LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

YOUR SCORE DROPPED AGAIN?

. ARE YOU OKAY? IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

. I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS JUST A ONE OFF THING .

BUT

"HE"

SOMETIMES NATSUME LOOKED LIKE HE WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING

"DOESN'T LIKE YOU, DOES HE?"

. I'M HOME...

BUT I'M NOT VERY SENSITIVE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

LATELY I'VE BEEN CRAZY LONELY

I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE NOT HAVING A FAMILY

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE ONE

sigh

SORRY, NEXT TIME.

NEXT TIME I'LL DO IT PROPERLY.

. I'M

SO LUCKY I'M THE YOUNGER BROTHER...

HM?

MY MARKS ARE BAD

SO THERE'S NO WAY I COULD LIVE UP TO MY MUM'S EXPECTATIONS LIKE MY BROTHER DOES

IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF I JUST LEFT ONE DAY.

. HUH? WHAT'S WRONG NISHIMURA?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE FIGHTING WITH THAT NATSUME GUY? HURRY UP AND MAKE UP WITH HIM ALREADY

. HM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, I GUESS I'M JUST A BIT OFF LATELY

..MAYBE I'M JUST IMAG NING IT...

BUT I WONDER WHAT IT IS? LATELY MY HEAD IS ALWAYS BUZZING

AND MY SHOULDERS FEEL HEAVY

HEY, I ALREADY TOLD YOU WE'RE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO HAVE A FIGHT

I'll hand back your tests now

62

NATSUME?

ビク

おりがみ

月出書房

Gra crap, better look for some study aids or something

OH

TOUKO-SAN?

..YEAH, SHE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING AFTER ME AT THE MOMENT

OH?

SO I... THOUGHT I'D HELP HER BY FOLDING SOME.

A FRIEND OF TOUKO-SAN'S HAS BEEN HOSPITALISED, AND SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO FOLD A THOUSAND PAPER CRANES AND SEND THEM TO HER

...NISHIMURA

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE

WHAT'S THAT? .AN ORIGAMI BOOK?

YEAH

HUH?

.....

SO WHY'RE YOU BUYING AN ORIGAMI BOOK?

.. NISHIMURA .?

WHAT'S..

...HUH. ?

. NO, I DON'T. .

HEY

MOST PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO FOLD ONE DON'T THEY?

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO FOLD A CRANE?

!

I CAN FOLD THEM TOO

YOU JUST NEED TO ASK!

YOU COULD JUST ASK THAT TOUKO-SAN LADY TOO COULDN'T YOU?

SECRETLY LOOKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT UP IN A BOOK...

ARE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU REALLY THAT UNRELIABLE!?

WHAT DID I JUST SAY...?

NSHL

...HUH?

NISHIMURA.

だっ

ど"
く
ん

I

HEY, NISHIMURA

ど"
く
ん

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?

WHAT AM I DOING...

MY HEART FEELS SO HEAVY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE...

WHY DID I SAY SOMETHING SO HORRIBLE?

だか

I THOUGHT I WAS TAKING A SHORTCUT HOME BUT.

. HUH?

WHERE AM I.?

A FOREST...?

. WHERE AM I...?

. HUH?

A BIG BLACK LUMP IS WEIGHING IT DOWN...

...HUH?

HO HO

HOW DO I GET OUT...?

CRAP, I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE

!? IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION

I THINK I CAN HEAR SOMEONE ELSE'S...

HA HO

HO HO

HO

HO

B... BREATHING

NISHIMURA

HUH...

AH!?

IF I DON'T GET OUT OF HERE

IF I DON'T GET HOME SOON...

HA

!?

THAT'S NATSUME'S VOICE

WHA, WHAT'S THAT ?

!?

HM? I CAN HEAR SOMEONE TALKING

…ぼそぼそ…

'I KNEW A SMALL ONE HAD BEEN TARGETING ME SINCE I GOT HERE'

'BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MESSING WITH NISHIMURA TOO…!'

'THANK YOU SENSEI…'

IT'S NATSUME

…SENSEI, NISHIMURA MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT'

'HMPH. I CHASED IT AWAY, SO JUST LEAVE THIS CHEEKY BRAT HERE'

AND IT MESSED WITH HIS FEELINGS'

NISHIMURA IS A GREAT GUY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS AFFECTED BY THAT THING

NATSUME IS TALKING TO A CAT THAT LOOKS LIKE A DARUMA

IS THIS A DREAM?

T/N- A daruma is a kind of doll. It's small and squashed looking

I... I WAS REALLY HAPPY

I WAS REALLY HAPPY, SENSEI...

THE FIRST TIME THAT NISHIMURA TALKED TO ME IN THAT CLASSROOM

BUT IT'S SPECIAL TO ME

AH, IF THAT'S THE CASE NATSUME

DON'T JUST TALK TO A CAT

... TORU

SATORU

LET'S TALK, MUCH, MUCH MORE...

FROM WHAT I WAS TOLD, NATSUME HAD EMERGED FROM A FOREST TRAIL, CARRYING ME ON HIS BACK

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS LYING IN A HOSPITAL BED

..I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER, BUT AFTER MY MEMORY STRANGELY CUT OUT

IT SEEMS I SLIPPED OFF A CLIFF ON A MOUNTAIN PATH

ガバッ

! NATSUME.

AH, SATORU!

カラ

SATORU! WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS WORRY ME LIKE THIS!

...

...EXCUSE ME... NISHIMURA

YOU CARRIED ME HERE, DIDN'T YOU?

..YOU'RE NOT HURT ARE YOU?

NO..

.....

...I'M GLAD .....

. YEAH

THANKS, NATSUME

I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY

NISHI-MURA

IN THE END, I JUST HAD MY SCRAPES DISINFECTED AND I WAS ABLE TO GO HOME NOT LONG AFTER

. IS THAT I WANTED TO TRY FOLDING THEM IN SECRET, THEN, AFTER I LEARNED TO DO IT PROPERLY, I WANTED TO SAY 'I'LL HELP'

THE REASON I DIDN'T ASK TOUKO-SAN TO TEACH ME

NATSUME ASKED ME TO TEACH HIM

SO WE ENDED UP FOLDING CRANES ON A BENCH IN OUR GARDEN, WHERE I USED TO PLAY WITH MY BROTHER WHEN WE WERE LITTLE

AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME WITH NATSUME, WHO I'D ALWAYS SEEN AS ODDLY MATURE AND PHILOSOPHICAL

I SEE

..IT'S CHILDISH AND KIND OF EMBARRASSING

.. BUT I WANTED TO TRY IT

I REALISED HE WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY CHILDISH

AH, ORIGAMI ISN'T FOR EATING NYANKO-SENSEI!

..WHAT BREED IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ANYWAY? AND WHERE'D YOU FIND SUCH A WEIRD CAT?

It's got some pretty crazy measurements

DON'T LAUGH! IT'S FINE

.....

PFF

AT TIMES LIKE THIS

PFFF

YOU JUST HAVE TO ASK KITAMOTO!

..HUH? WHAT WAS THE NEXT STEP AGAIN?

...UM.. HUH?

HANG ON, WHICH PART WERE YOU MEANT TO FOLD NEXT , ?

HUH?

T/N: The word Nishimura uses to describe Nyanko-sensei, 'Bonkyubbon , is an onomatopoeic word used to describe a woman with a large bust and hips but a small waist

DAMMIT .

BUT .. WE'RE SO CLOSE TO BEING DONE

YEAH, THE GUY I ALWAYS COME TO SCHOOL WITH

KITAMOTO?

I CAME TO SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS IN THE GARDEN WAS ABOUT, AND THIS S WHAT I FIND .

ﾍﾝ

HERE'S A SAMPLE FOR YOU

LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY AND TEACH HIM PROPERLY

. YOUR BROTHER IS KIND, ISN'T HE?

FOR A SECOND, NATSUME'S EYES GLEAMED WITH ENVY

..HM, I WONDER ABOUT THAT

I WONDER, TO NATSUME

WHAT DID MY EXPRESSION LOOK LIKE IN THAT MOMENT?

劇場版『罪火の杜』

第一回上映
舞台挨拶レポ

ロビー

シネ・リーブル池袋さんでの上映・舞台挨拶を観に行ってきました。ロビーには美しいコンテや美術資料展示品がありうっとり。観に来てくださった方達と一緒にそわそわ上映を待つ時間がとても幸せでした。

本編

夏特有の美しい緑や光、音のなかで、エピソードや気持ちが深々と積もっていき、最後にはそれが舞い上がっていくように昇華される映画で、こらえてみたのですが気付くと涙が出ていました。演者様も素晴らしく、映画のなかで、ギンと蛍に会えました。EDを含む音楽も美しくて感無量のひとときでした!

上映後
かわいらしいお三方にも
いやされました。

舞台挨拶

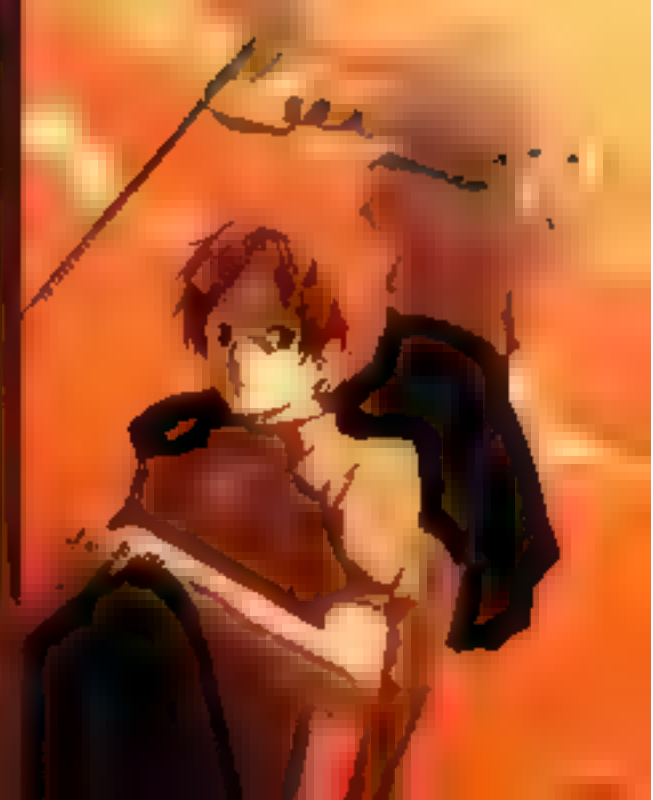
大森監督

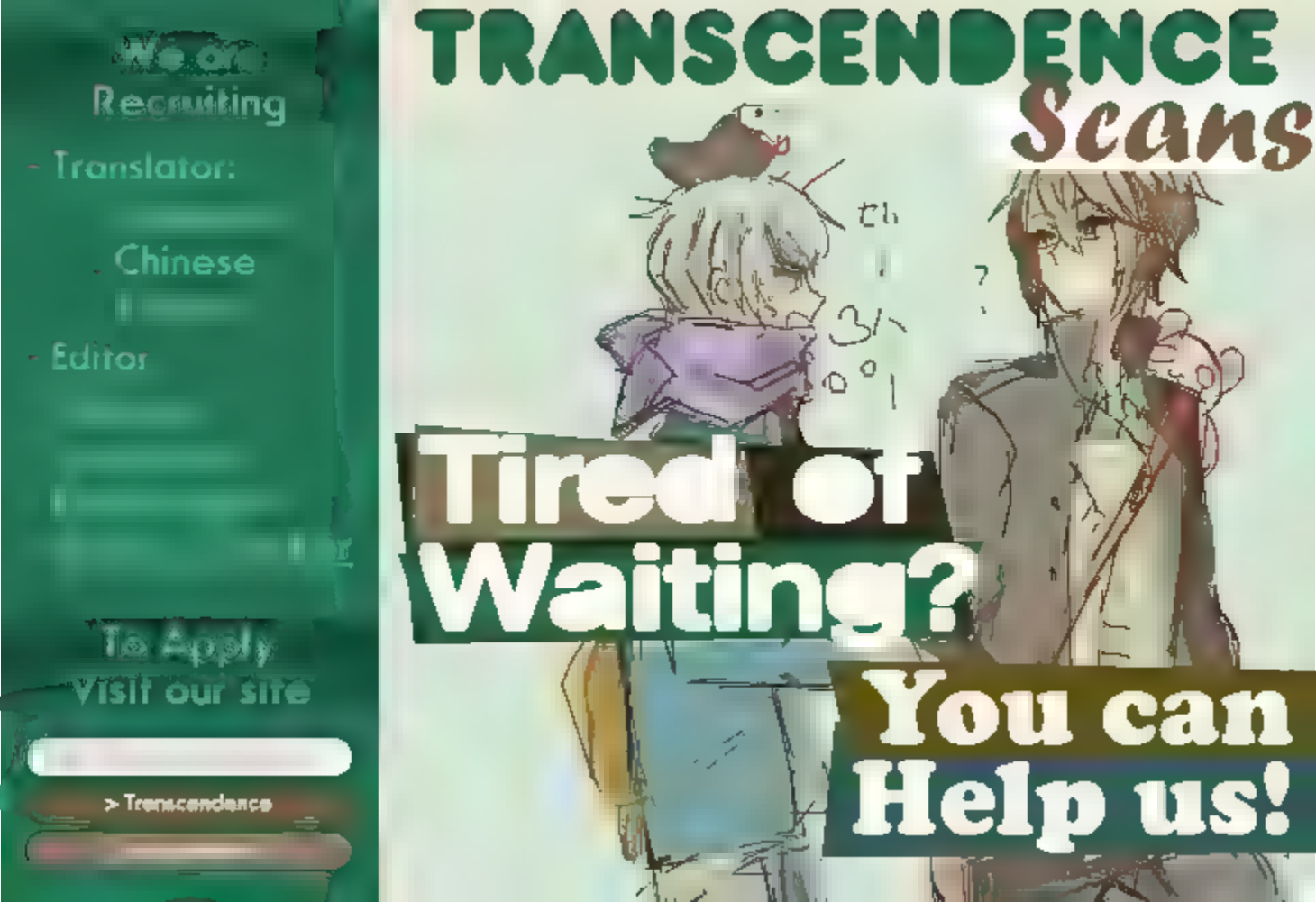
内山さん

佐倉さん

大感謝です!!

Credits

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夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

Special Arc II Nishimura and Natsume

ONE DAY, A STUDENT TRANSFERRED INTO MY FRIEND NISHIMURA'S CLASS

WHAT!? IS IT A GIRL!?

GUESS WHAT KITAMOTO! WE GOT A TRANSFER STUDENT!

AND THAT WAS THAT

. OH

. IT'S A DUDE

NISHIMURA, ALWAYS THE CURIOUS ONE, SEEMED REALLY INTERESTED IN HIM

AH

HE SEEMS COOL BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A PRESENCE

HE'S FROM THE CITY

OH?

WHAT? AH. NOT AGAIN MANA. I TOLD HER TO STOP IT BECAUSE STARS AND HEARTS JUST TAKE UP SPACE...

THAT LOOKS AWESOME, WISH I HAD A LITTLE SISTER WHO'D MAKE LUNCH FOR ME

I HEARD THE GIRLS WHISPERING ABOUT A TRANSFER STUDENT FROM ANOTHER CLASS

BUT IT WASN'T REALLY ANYTHING WORTH PAYING ATTENTION TO

Trade that for my bread you bastard

YOU'RE EVIL!

I SAID I'D RATHER HAVE ROUND NORIMAKI ONIGIRI OR SOMETHING FULL OF FLAVOUR.

T/N:The most common kind of onigiri wrapped in seaweed

OH?
WAH
HEY
WHAT'S WITH THIS BREEZE?
HUH?
GOTCHA
THE WIND
HUH..
AH
!
WAIT.
ぱ

. . GO AWAY

...

. AH

THANKS. THAT'S MY WORKSHEET

..WHAT?

HERE YOU GO

HUH...?

OH, THANKS

. OH, THERE WAS A HUGE SPIDER OVER THERE

ガチャ

. I'M HOME

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT FOR A SECOND HIS EYES LOOKED AS THOUGH THEY WERE MADE OF GLASS

. HUH? WHO WAS THAT?

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW HIM

OH? DAD'S HOME .

LAST YEAR HE BECAME SERIOUSLY ..., AND HE'S STILL RECOVERING

HIS PROGRESS HAS BEEN GOOD SO EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY IS RELIEVED

GEEZ, HE'S SLEEPING WITHOUT ANYTHING COVERING 'IM AGAIN

Blanket
Blanket

ガー

ガー

DAD HAS BEEN COMING HOME EARLY FROM WORK LATELY

05

※田沼

描きはじめて、名と顔がしっくりきたキャラは、そこからは大抵設定通りに育っていくのですが、田沼は自分が予定していたよりも、なかなか夏目とつうかあな仲にならず、いつまでたってもなぜかそわそわしてしまっているキャラです。
すごく落ち着いたキャラなのですが、夏目が来ると仲良くなろうとしてそわそわしだして、夏目もつられてそわそわしてしまう、妙に掴み所が難しいキャラで、描いていて新鮮で楽しいです。

※瓜姫と笹後

すごく気に入っているキャラ達なのですが、この二人は夏目をあまり心良く思っていないので、名取は夏目と会う時二人をひっこめてしまい、描く機会が少ないのでいつかがっつり描いてみたいです。

¼おわり

WE'LL BE HAVING DINNER SOON, MUM WILL GET MAD AT YOU

OH, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS

Here, look, there's a new donut store

Which one do you want? I'll go buy it

HM ? OH, WELCOME HOME YOU TWO

HEY, YOU WOKE DAD UP!

HUH? WAH, SORRY!

GEEZ, NOT YOU TOO DAD..

HAHA, SOUNDS GOOD

It's fine it'll be our secret, right Dad

And I' buy one for her too, so she won't mind

I SEE GOOD FOR YOUR DAD THEN

YEAH

DAD IS FINE NOW, BUT JUST TO BE SAFE WE MOVED INTO AN APARTMENT TEMPORARILY TO SAVE MONEY

BUT IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL

HUH? THIS GUY IS.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

IT SURE IS HOT ISN'T IT?

REALLY..

WAH

. HUH? NATSUME. .?

. SO THIS IS —NATSUME

..NA-TSUME?

OH, THE TRANSFER STUDENT FROM CLASS 2

ACCORDING TO NISHIMURA, HE LOST HIS PARENTS, AND WAS BEING PASSED AROUND BETWEEN HIS . RELATIVES

MAYBE THAT'S WHY

HM.

AND HE TOOK OFF IN A FLURRY

THE SECOND TIME WE MET, NATSUME WAS STRANGELY PANICKY

びくっ

01

HE REALLY IS ALWAYS ON HIS OWN

JUST HIS EYES SEEM TO SHINE AS THOUGH THEY AREN'T REAL. .

O

AH

ガタン

..SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SURPRISE YOU

HUH..?

しーん

...

. AH. YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT .

. HAHA, YOU PICKED UP MY WORKSHEET FOR ME A WHILE AGO.

. WH-WHAT? HE'S GLARING AT ME, IT'S ALMOST LIKE .

...

. OH, DID I?

SORRY IT'S DARK SO I COULDN'T SEE WHO YOU WERE

HE?...

. YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT

DID YOU MISTAKE ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE . ?

HUH. ?

I THOUGHT THAT I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GET CLOSE TO SOMEONE DELICATE LIKE THAT

HE SEEMED LIKE HE COULD BE HURT BY CARELESS WORDS

HE LOOKED AS THOUGH HE WAS STRAINING TO SEE AND HEAR SOMETHING

HE'S HAD IT ROUGH HUH ?

LIKE HE WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING

HOWEVER

HI

HUH?

NATSUME, THIS IS KITAMOTO

KITAMOTO, THIS IS NATSUME

HI

IF NISHIMURA, WHO IS ALWAYS CLEAR ON WHAT HE LIKES AND WHAT HE DOESN'T LIKES HIM, THEN HE CAN'T BE A BAD GUY

I OFTEN MISTAKE PEOPLE WHEN I'M IN A NEW PLACE, I COULDN'T TELL WHICH ONE YOU WERE FOR A SECOND .

HM?

Y-YEAH. .

SO YOU'RE A FRIEND OF NISHIMURA'S? SORRY ABOUT BEFORE

HM? YOU MEAN FOR DEATH GLARING ME?

. OH, BY THE WAY, ARE YOU OKAY NATSUME?

HUH?

SO HE WAS TRYING TO DECIDE IF I WAS A BULLY OR NOT ?

AH, SORRY. . THAT WAS A WEIRD THING TO SAY

NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT .

YOU'RE REALLY KIND KITAMOTO

. HUH? HAHA, I'M FINE

YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO PLAY ALONG, OKAY?

IF YOU'RE BOTHERED BY NISHIMURA ONE SIDEDLY FAWNING ALL OVER YOU

NORMALLY NO ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT

KIND PEOPLE HAVE KIND FRIENDS

IT SURE HAS BEEN A LONG TIME

SINCE SOMEONE CALLED ME KIND THOUGH

THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT SENSE AT ALL

WITHOUT BEING EMBARRASSED

NATSUME HAS SPENT SO LITTLE TIME WITH PEOPLE

Look Natsume a stag beetle

I said this is the bark. not that

Ugh, I'm doing it already. Be quiet Nishimura

WHAT!?

IT'S HUGE, GROSS!

NATSUME'S INEXPERIENCED REACTIONS TO THINGS WERE SO REFRESHING THAT I JOINED NISHIMURA IN TAKING HIM AROUND

AFTER THAT

..I MEAN, HE'S LOOSENED UP A LOT, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE HIS MIND IS ELSEWHERE I GUESS. HE OFTEN STARES OFF INTO THE DISTANCE RIGHT?

HUH? NATSUME IS WHAT?

...YOU SAY THAT SO FLATLY THAT I CAN'T DECIDE IF YOU'RE JUST THICK OR IF I'M JUST OVER THINKING THINGS

?

YOU THINK?

IS THAT WHY

.. THE STICKS HUH. .?

WELL HE IS FROM THE CITY

MAYBE HE'S THINKING ABOUT ESCAPING THE STICKS SOMEDAY

EVERY DAY WAS BUSY, BUT TIME DID GO BY

WE GOT A DUDE TOO HUH

がっくし

I'M TANUMA KANAME, NICE TO MEET YOU

HIS EYES ARE SO DISTANT ?

UM, TODAY I'LL BE INTRODUCING YOU TO A TRANSFER STUDENT

YOU HAVE THREE WEEKS

IT'S FOR THE CLASS ALLOCATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM WITH YOUR GUARDIANS

CAREER PATH HUH

I WONDER IF DAD WILL BE BETTER BY THEN

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO JUST UP AND LEAVE ?

WAH!? ... TA-TANUMA... WAS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

T/N: In Japan you're asked to make it clear whether you plan to stay in school or find employment and also whether you want to study science or humanities. Students are divided into classes with that in mind

OH, KITAMOTO-KUN. NATSUME COLLAPSED IN THE HALLWAY SO I GOT SOME OF THE BOYS TO CARRY HIM HERE

I WENT AND PICKED UP HIS BOOKS THAT GOT SCATTERED EVERYWHERE

SENSEI... HUH? SASADA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

..AH, SORRY, I JUST GOT A BIT DIZZY FROM STANDING UP TOO FAST.

WHAT!?

NURSE'S OFFICE

HUH? AGAIN HUM..?

..NATSUME?

NO WAY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AT NATSUME TO SEE THAT THE FUJI-WARAS ARE GOOD PEOPLE

YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HIM AREN'T YOU? .. HE'S NOT. BEING ABUSED OR ANYTHING IS HE?

I WONDER IF IT'S EXHAUSTION FROM BEING IN A NEW ENVIRON-MENT

HE'S SLEEPING NOW AND HE SEEMS OKAY ..

YOU EITHER SASADA, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO DISCUSS RUMOURS

IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT TANUMA, JUST WORTHLESS STORIES

. NATSUME . ? STRANGE LIKE HOW ?

..THERE'S WEIRD RUMOURS GOING AROUND ABOUT HIM BEING A LITTLE STRANGE.. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT, KITAMOTO?

. I SEE

ヤラ?

.. YOU'RE RIGHT, SORRY

. I SEE...

. HE'S ACTUALLY KIND OF LIKE YOU TANUMA

NATSUME I MEAN

キュ
Hang in there

So hot

キュキュ

Sup Ponta

3

Guess what!! The Natori Shuuichi is coming here soon for a shoot!

It's near my house, how awesome is that?

Hey don't sleep Natsume, listen

YEAH, YOU BOTH ACT LIKE OLD PEOPLE

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO TANUMA A LOT RECENTLY HAVEN'T YOU?

WHAT? OH. . YEAH, I GUESS WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON

I DID

EH? NOT YET

..HAVE YOU HANDED IN YOUR CAREER PATH FORMS YET?

WHAT WAS THAT!?

HAHA. HEY NISHIMURA, NATSUME.

I'M STAYING IN SCHOOL OF COURSE

I'LL GET OUT OF HERE FOR SURE

. NOT YET

..I GUESS. .

. HOW ABOUT YOU KITA-MOTO?

HAVE YOU DECIDED?

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE. NO PARTIES. NO GROUP DATES...

T/N: Group dates (Goukon) are pretty common in Japan. (at least the way manga sells them they are) a group of guys and a group of girls will go out together and try to meet potential dates

.YOU WANT TO STAY IN SCHOOL DON'T YOU?

MAKE SURE YOU TALK TO THE FUJIWARAS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO OKAY?

. I SEE

.. I THINK SO.

...

NATSUME HAD BEEN SO ENERGETIC UP TILL THEN, BUT I SAW THE LIGHT IN HIS EYES GO OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN

...

.. YEAH. .

HE WAS ALWAYS

THERE'S ONE IN SAKAGI CITY, BUT IT'S SUPER HARD TO GET INTO

THERE'S NO UNIVERSITIES ROUND HERE AFTER ALL

BUT SOMETIMES IT SEEMED LIKE THERE WAS A WALL BETWEEN US, AND IT MADE ME KIND OF SAD

I THOUGHT OF HIM AS A VALUED FRIEND

SUCH A HARD NUT TO CRACK

I'm home aaa

I'M HOME.

ガイ…

THE DEEP SCARS THAT WOULD LEAVE YOU WITH

I'm home

AREN'T EASY THINGS TO MEND ..

ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU COULD JUST HAVE NO PLACE TO GO HOME TO

WHEN I LOOK AT NATSUME I GET A LITTLE SCARED

IT MAKES ME REALISE YOU CAN JUST LOSE YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT

YEAH

...I see

...I had sleeping again?

MANA

...I bought donuts again

...Wanna share?

YEAH..

I wish dad would hurry and wake up

And mum would hurry up and come home

...Yeah

IF I WERE TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THIS TOWN IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WITH THE COUNCIL OR THE POST OFFICE

JUST TEMPORARILY

A CIVIL SERVANT?

I'M JUST A LITTLE INTERESTED..

HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO YOUR PARENTS ABOUT THIS?

NO.

. DIDN'T YOU PUT YOURSELF DOWN FOR CONTINUING ON WHEN YOU STARTED HERE? .WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?

CIVIL SERVANTS GET SHUFFLED AROUND QUITE A BIT YOU KNOW?

HUH? OH, UM..

..STAY BACK AFTER SCHOOL TODAY KITAMOTO, I'LL HEAR YOU OUT

...DAD WILL PROB-ABLY GET BETTER

I'M BEAT

くったり

I see... but what you really want to do is important

BUT SOME-TIMES I CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM GET-TING ANXIOUS

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME NOT TO DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT MY FAMILY?

WHAT AM I THINKING DOES NATSUME THINK THESE AWFUL THINGS TOO. ?

ガシ

はっ し

WHAT IF

WHAT IF I LOST THEM LIKE NATSUME...

I'LL TRY THE STAFF DOOR...

!! THE STUDENT DOOR IS LOCKED

CRAP, IT'S GETTING DARK

ガチャ

ガチャガチャ

PSST

PSST

NO WAY

LET ME OUT

. GO LOOK FOR IT YOURSELF, I'M.

I CAN'T JUST LOOK FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU DROPPED IT

. .I CAN'T

?

!

I SAID I'VE NEVER SEEN A BELL LIKE THAT

..LET GO, CUT IT OUT

IS THAT NATSUME'S VOICE? IN THERE

WHAT'S GOING ON NATSUME!?

KI-KITAMOTO...!?

ARE YOU OKAY NATSUME!? WAS SOMEONE... TRYING TO THREATEN YOU OR SOMETHING!?

WHERE ARE THEY? IN HERE!?

ばん

KI-KITAMOTO, WHAT. WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE!?

I FELL ASLEEP..

HUH? WHERE'S THE PERSON YOU WERE TALKING TO? WHO WAS IT WHERE DID THEY GO!?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT KITAMOTO

. A GUY I MET RECENTLY DROPPED SOMETHING.

HE WANTED TO MAKE ME HELP LOOK FOR IT, BUT HE GOT SCARED WHEN HE HEARD YOUR VOICE AND RAN OFF.

. A GUY YOU MET RECENTLY?

. YEAH, IT'S FINE

HE'S NO ONE YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT

.. YEAH

.. THEN LET'S GO HOME

. ARE YOU SURE?

YEAH..

WHAT!?

..I SEE..

THE STUDENT DOOR IS LOCKED, LET'S GO TRY THE STAFF ONE

..KITAMOTO, YOU WAIT HERE I'LL GO TRY TO FIND A TEACHER

WAIT HERE

職員用昇降口

ガチャ

ガチャ

... . HUH? THIS ONE'S LOCKED TOO. .?

sign: staff door

.....

ヒュー...

...

AH, HEY NATSUME. .

WHAT?

WHAT IS HE THINKING ..?

ナニヲ

WE SHOULD LOOK TOGETHER

ガタ

ガタ

ガタ

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE BUT TO CLIMB OUT A WINDOW HUH? HM?

NO ONE

SENSEI?

SENSEI IS ANYONE THERE?

IF I DON'T HURRY HOME MANA MIGHT GET SCARED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S NO ONE HERE

CRAP IS THERE A TYPHOON COMING?

...IT WON'T OPEN..

IT'S LIKE WHEN THERE'S A TYPHOON AND YOU CAN'T OPEN THE WINDOW BECAUSE THE WIND IS SO STRONG

..HUH?

. WHERE'D ... HE GO..?

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ONCE...!!

WHERE'S NATSUME?

NATSUME!

NATSUME-?

I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND FOR A WHILE NOW

CRASH

COME TO THINK OF IT, NATSUME WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A BELL.

...A BELL?

ぺこ

WHAT WAS THAT? IS SOMEONE THERE...?

LET HIM GO

PLEASE.

WAS ARGUING WITH SOMEONE BEFORE..

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR PROPERLY...

WAH

WAAH

I SAID I GET IT

I SAID I'D HELP YOU DIDN'T I?

はあ!

IS THAT THE WIND.?

OH HEY THIS IS THE ROOM WHERE NATSUME

NATSUME...

ばっ

ばっ

はぁ…

ぎゅ…!

!?

NATSUME!?

CRAP... NATSUME!

THE CURTAIN IS WRAPPING AROUND HIM!?

WHAT'S WITH THIS WIND...

HUH..?

KITA-MOTO...

THE BELL...

DAMMIT... SO THERE IS A TYPOON...!?

Jingle

!!?

バサ
バサ

. YEAH

. WOW

ARE YOU OKAY?

LOOKS LIKE IT BLEW OUT THE WINDOW

THAT WAS SOME CRAZY WHIRLWIND

YEAH..

YOU SAVED ME

THANK YOU

THANK YOU, KITAMOTO

THE DOOR IT WAS UNLOCKED, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WERE TEACHERS...

IT, BUT IT WAS A VERY STRANGE SIGHT

THOUGHT I HAD IN MY

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF HE REALLY IS IN SOME FARAWAY PLACE

NATSUME SEEMED REALLY MATURE AT THAT TIME

THE CAREER PATH FORM

WHAT?

HEY KITAMOTO?

YEAH?

DID YOU FILL IT OUT YET?

...ALMOST LIKE ANOTHER UNKNOWN WORLD...

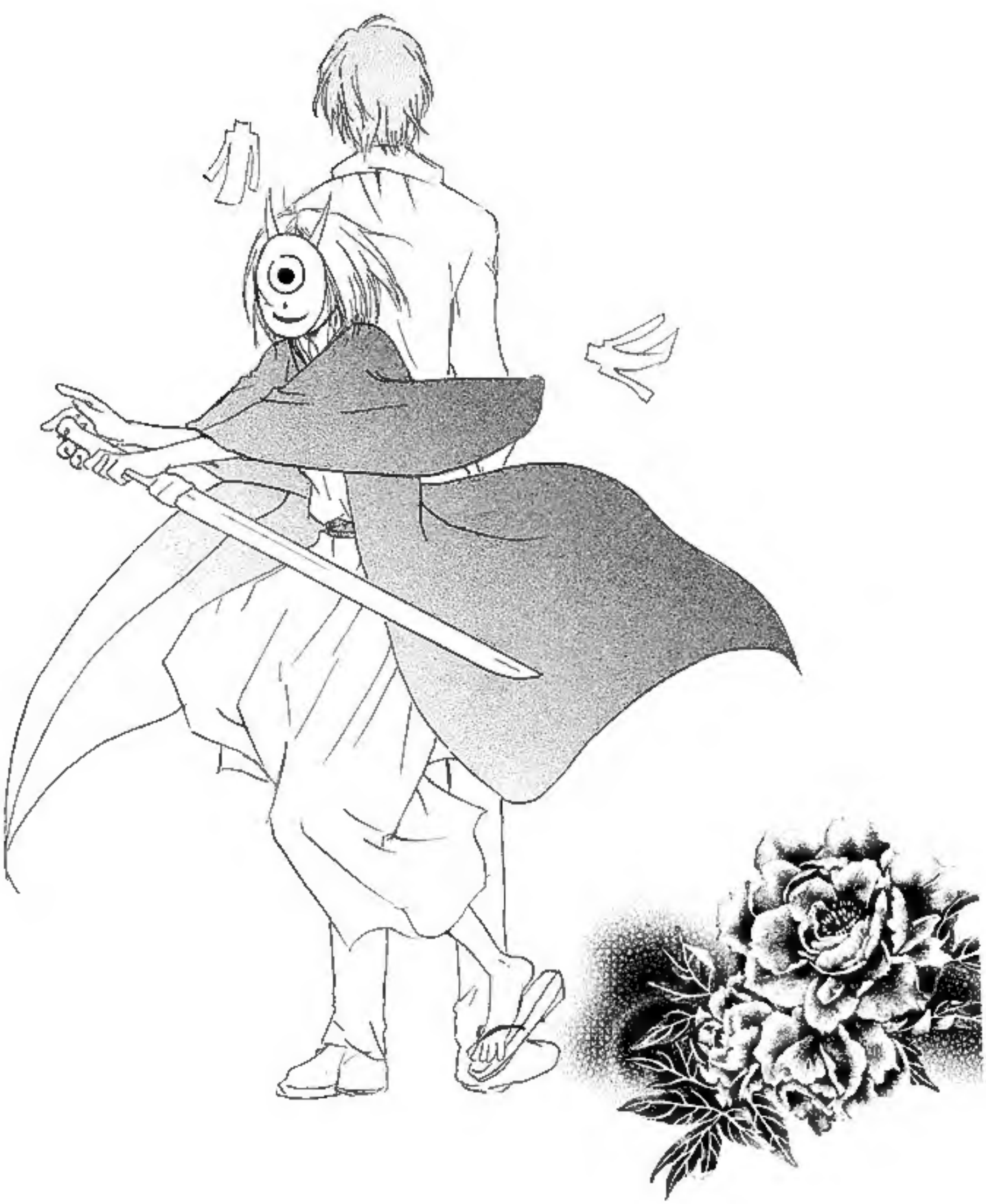
I'M IN TWO MINDS TO BE HONEST ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

NOPE

..YEAH, ME TOO

...TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M AT A LOSS TOO

WILL YOU [illegible]



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